

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention includes a topical anesthetic composition  
having one or more local anesthetic agents, a penetration enhancer, and an  
5 anhydrous, volatile solvent combined to provide a liquid homogenous solution. The  
present invention may also include water in the topical anesthetic composition as  
concentration levels low enough to avoid precipitation of the local anesthetic agent  
and penetration enhancer from solution and undesired enhanced delivery of the local  
anesthetic agent through the skin or mucosa to the systemic circulation. The topical  
10 anesthetic composition can be conveniently sprayed onto intact skin and can be  
absorbed percutaneously with greater efficacy in order to shorten the time needed for  
the anesthesia to take effect.